

IN THE CLAIMS:

- 1 1. (Currently Amended) A method of monitoring and controlling power consumption
2 comprising:
3 reading power consumption data using an automatic reader;
4 collecting the data from the reader [[in]] into a computer memory device;
5 creating a forecast of electric power consumption for a predetermined period of time
6 using [[the]] a computer system, wherein the computer system is used in the creation of a
7 forecast based on usage for a portion of the predetermined period of time; and
8 controlling an amount of power consumption by controlling a device that consumes
9 power based on the forecast.
- 1 2. (Currently Amended) The method~~[[,]]~~ according to claim 1, wherein said controlling is done
2 manually by hand.
- 1 3. (Currently Amended) The method~~[[,]]~~ according to claim 1, wherein said controlling is done
2 manually using ~~[[a]]~~ the computer system.
- 1 4. (Currently Amended) The method~~[[,]]~~ according to claim 1, wherein said controlling is done
2 automatically through ~~[[a]]~~ the computer system.
- 1 5. (Currently Amended) The method~~[[,]]~~ according to claim 1, wherein said predetermined
2 period of time is instantaneous.
- 1 6. (Currently Amended) The method, according to claim 1, wherein said predetermined period of
2 time is ~~[[any]]~~ a chronological period of time.
- 1 7. (Currently Amended) The method, according to claim 1, wherein said predetermined period of
2 time ~~[[may by any]]~~ is a non-chronological period of time.
- 1 8. (Currently Amended) A system for monitoring and controlling power consumption

2 comprising:
3 a reader for obtaining power consumption data [[from an electric utility service]]; and,
4 a computer system for collecting the data from the reader wherein the computer system is
5 used [[to create]] in the creation of a forecast of electric power consumption for a predetermined
6 period of time based on usage for a portion of the predetermined period of time and wherein a
7 device that consumes [[electricity]] power is controlled based on the forecast.

1 9. (Currently Amended) The [[method,]] system according to claim 8, wherein said controlling is
2 done manually using a computer.

1 10. (Currently Amended) The [[method,] system according to claim 8, wherein said controlling
2 is done automatically through a computer.

1 11. (Currently Amended) The [[method,]] system according to claim 8, wherein said
2 predetermined period of time is instantaneous.

1 12. (Currently Amended) The [[method,]] system according to claim 8, wherein said
2 predetermined period of time is [[any]] a chronological period of time.

1 13. (Currently Amended) The [[method,]] system according to claim 8, wherein said
2 predetermined period of time [[may by any]] is a non-chronological period of time.

1 14. (New) The system according to claim 8, wherein the computer system controls the device so
2 that usage for the predetermined time period falls below a predetermined amount.

1 15. (New) The system according to claim 14, wherein the predetermined amount represents a
2 target and when usage falls below the target for the predetermined time period the user becomes
3 entitled to a rebate.

1 16. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the data obtained from the automatic reader
2 is power consumption data for one or more circuits measured in amperage.

1 17. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the data obtained from the automatic reader
2 is power consumption data for one or more circuits measured in wattage.

1 18. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the data obtained from the automatic reader
2 is power consumption data for one or more circuits measured in kilowatt-hours.

1 19. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the data is transferred from the reader to
2 the computer memory device via wireless communications.

1 20. (New) The method according to claim 1 wherein the data is transferred from the reader to the
2 computer memory device via wired communications.

1 21. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the data is transferred from the reader to
2 the computer system via wireless communications.

1 22. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the data is transferred from the reader to
2 the computer system via wired communication.

1 23. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the predetermined period of time is two or
2 more instantaneous time periods.

1 24. (New) The system according to claim 8, wherein the data obtained from the automatic reader
2 is power consumption data for one or more circuits measured in amperage.

1 25. (New) The system according to claim 8 wherein the data obtained from the automatic reader
2 is power consumption for one or more circuits measured in wattage.

1 26. (New) The system according to claim 8, wherein the data obtained from the automatic reader
2 is power consumption data for one or more circuits measured in kilowatt-hours.

1 27. (New) The system according to claim 8, wherein the data is transferred from the reader to the
2 computer memory device via wireless communications.

1 28. (New) The system according to claim 8, wherein the data is transferred from the reader to the
2 computer memory device via wired communications.

1 29. (New) The system according to claim 8, wherein the data is transferred from the reader to the
2 computer system via wireless communications.

1 30. (New) The system according to claim 8, wherein the data is transferred from the reader to the
2 computer system via wired communication.

1 31. (New) The system according to claim 8, wherein the controlling is done manually by hand.

1 32. (New) The system according to claim 8, wherein the predetermined period of time is two or
2 more instantaneous time periods.

1 33. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the computer system is used to
2 control a security system.

1 34. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the computer system is used to
2 control a fire alarm system.

1 35. (New) The system according to claim 8, wherein the computer system controls a security
2 system.

1 36. (New) The system according to claim 8, wherein the computer system controls a fire alarm
2 system.

1 37. (New) The system according to claim 8, is responsive to a remote user interface, and
2 operative to control a security system.

1 38. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the computer system is used to control the
2 device so that usage for the predetermined time period falls below a predetermined amount.

1 39. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the predetermined amount represents a
2 target and when usage falls below the target for the predetermined time period the user becomes
3 entitled to a rebate.